

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MANILA 07781 010801Z

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ACTION TRSE-00

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 ISO-00 NEA-14 IO-14 L-03 H-03 PRS-01

PA-04 USIA-15 SP-03 AID-20 EB-11 NSC-07 RSC-01

CIEP-02 SS-20 STR-08 OMB-01 CEA-02 CIAE-00 COME-00

FRB-02 INR-10 NSAE-00 XMB-07 OPIC-12 LAB-06 SIL-01

DRC-01 /180 W

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P R 010659Z JUL 74

FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO AMEMBASSY DACCA PRIORITY

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 4814

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USADB

TREASURY FOR FINKEL

E.O. 11652: DECLASS 12/31/74

TAGS: EAID, EFIN, BEXP, BG

SUBJECT: WEST ZONE POWER PROJECT

REF: MANILA 7545 AND 7285

DACCA 2730 AND 2855

SUMMARY: ADB STAFF FULLY AWARE INEXPERIENCE OF BANGLADESH OFFICIALS WITH BANK'S PROCEDURES CAUSING DELAYS. BANK HAS SUGGESTED SEVERAL POSSIBLE WAYS TO EXPEDITE PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION. END SUMMARY.

1. IN DISCUSSIONS HELD WITH BANK STAFF RE DELAYS SUBJECT PROJECT, ADB EXPRESSED SUMPATHEIC CONCERN, AND HAS SUGGESTED VARIOUS ACTIONS WHICH BANGLADESH POWER DEVELOPMENT BOARD (BPDB) OFFICIALS COULD TAKE TO SPEED
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PAGE 02 MANILA 07781 010801Z

UP LOAN IMPLEMENTATION, AS NOTED HEREIN.

2. FIRST SUGGESTION IS FOR BPDB, IN THEIR INVITATION TO SOFRALEC TO INITIATE NEGOTIATIONS, TO REQUEST THAT CONSULTANT INCLUDE A QUALIFIED ENGINEER AS MEMBER OF NEGOTIATING TEAM WHO COULD THEN STAY ON IN DACCA IF CONSULTANT IS HIRED AND IMMEDIATELY PREPARE BID EVALUATION.

3. BANK IS READY TO SEND 2 STAFF MEMBERS TO DACCA, A LAWYER AND ENGINEER, AS SOON AS ADVISED OF ETA OF SOFRALEC TEAM, TO ASSIST BPDB CONCLUDE NEGOTIATIONS AND FACILITATE COMPLIANCE WITH ADB PROCEDURES AND REQUIRED DOCUMENTATION, FOR WHICH THEY WILL BRING ALL NEEDED FORMS.

4. SECOND SUGGESTION IS THAT UPON CONCLUSION OF EVALUATION WHEN AUTHORIZED BPDB OFFICIAL AND CONSULTANT READY TO RECOMMEND AWARD, THAT BOTH TRAVEL TO MANILA HANDCARRYING TENDER DOCS AND EVALUATION TO ENABLE IMMEDIATE BANK STAFF REVIEW AND APPROVAL.

5. COMBINED EFFECT OF ACTIONS NOTED IN PARAS 2, 3, AND 4 ABOVE COULD SAVE SEVERAL WEEKS USUALLY CONSUMED BY EXCHANGES OF MESSAGES AND REQUESTS FOR CLARIFICATION OF DETAILS WHICH COULD BETTER BE RESOLVED FACE TO FACE.

6. FYI: ABOVE PROCEDURES REPRESENT BEST HOPE OF FINALIZING AWARD WITHIN VALIDITY PERIOD OF CURRENT TENDERS AND AVOIDANCE OF NECESSITY REBID. END FYI.

7. PLEASE PROVIDE ABOVE INFORMATION TO BPDB OFFICIALS WITH REMINDER THAT ALTHOUGH BANK'S PROCEDURAL SAFEGUARDS CANNOT BE SHORTCUT, MUCH TIME CAN BE SAVED IF STEPS RECOMMENDED ABOVE BE FOLLOWED; IT MAY BECOME NECESSARY FOR MISSION TO DETERMINE WILLINGNESS OF GE TO EXTEND VALIDITY THEIR OFFER IN EVENT AWARD NOT FINALIZED BY BID EXPIRATION DATE, AND THEIR POSITION RE NEED FOR EXTENSION/RENEWAL OF BID BOND; ESTIMATED COST THEREOF AND WILLINGNESS OF GE TO ASSUME. THESE QUESTIONS AROSE IN DISCUSSIONS WITH ADB STAFF BUT COULD NOT BE ANSWERED HERE.
SULLIVAN

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